



# California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## NEWS FOR VETERANS

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September 2, 2005

### NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS REGARDING HURRICANE KATRINA'S DEVASTATION OF THE GULF COAST

The American Red Cross has launched an immense emergency relief effort to meet unprecedented humanitarian needs in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In times of disaster, the American Red Cross immediately mobilizes workers and supplies to address the urgent, critical needs of disaster victims, which include providing emergency shelter, food, water, counseling and other assistance. The Red Cross response to Hurricane Katrina is the largest response to a single, natural disaster in the 125-year history of the organization.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs calls upon its employees and the veterans we serve to open their hearts and wallets and donate their time and money to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

As of August 31, 2005, the American Red Cross estimates that it has received \$71.6 million in gifts and pledges for the hurricane relief effort.

Persons wishing to donate money can call **1-800-HELP NOW** or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish). Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund may be sent to your local American Red Cross chapter or to the American Red Cross, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users can make a secure online contribution by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Individuals interested in volunteering for the American Red Cross should contact their [local Red Cross chapter](#).

### NEWS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Under the direction of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California has provided substantial resources to the Gulf Coast to assist in the Hurricane Katrina Disaster and continues to be available to provide additional resources as requests are made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To this end, OES has activated the State Operations Center and is in contact with the states of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi and Florida to identify any additional needs that California might be able to meet through proper channels.

OES is attempting to track all emergency management resources being sent from California to ensure enough resources are retained within the state for adequate response and recovery in the event of a disaster here.

## **WHAT WE'RE DOING**

### **California Resources Deployed to the Scene:**

- 8 Swiftwater Rescue Teams (112 firefighters and lifeguards)
- 8 Urban Search & Rescue Task Forces (640 people)
- 23 Incident Support Team Managers
- 3 OES Assistant Fire Chiefs
- 3 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, 105 people
- National Guard Resources

## **RESCUES BY CREWS FROM CALIFORNIA**

- 393 adults
- 75 children

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

### **Help Trapped Victims**

State OES has learned that trapped victims on the Gulf Coast are calling family, friends, loved-ones, or anyone they can get a call out to in California asking for someone to rescue them. Visit the [US Coast Guard](#) website to fill out a Missing/Stranded Persons Request.

### **Locate Missing Family Members**

Louisiana is asking loved ones to register missing with the [National Next of Kin Registry](#). The American Red Cross is developing a list of people registered in their shelters so as to help loved ones reunite. ARC asks for patience as this takes time with the number of people they are sheltering.

Louisiana State Police Telephone Numbers:

225-922-0325  
225-922-0332  
225-922-0333  
225-922-0334  
225-922-0335

### **Donate**

American Red Cross - 1-800-435-7669 (1-800-Help-Now)

### **Volunteer**

- California Service Corps - <http://www.csc.ca.gov/index.asp>
- USA Freedom Corps - <http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/>

### **Develop a Family Disaster Plan**

September is Disaster Preparedness Month. Families need to be ready for emergencies at home, at work and while on vacation. Know your risks, pack an emergency supply kits for every member of your family, and ensure everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency. That includes having a communications plan when local phone lines are overwhelmed and a place to meet if separated. Click on ["Be Smart, Be Responsible, Be Prepared. Be Ready"](#) for information on how to prepare for disasters.

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